



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Census of Agriculture News Release Cotton Ginnings Slaughter Prices Received Corn &
Sorghum MYA, & Monthly Prices Corn, Farm Marketings, Percent of Sales TDA Christmas Trees

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Census Gives Farmers a Voice in Their Future 2007 Census of Agriculture Coming Soon

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come. That opportunity will come to their mailboxes in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

"The Census of Agriculture provides information that is not available anywhere else – information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in a myriad of ways," said Debra Kenerson Director of the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). "For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census data to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations and farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses," she explained.

NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site. "We're committed to making this Census the best count ever. It's about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," Kenerson said. "Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, Tennessee farmers will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census of Agriculture and returning it promptly," she added. "We want farmers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility."

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please contact the NASS Tennessee Field Office at (800) 626-0987 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov online.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to November 15, Crop Years 2004-2007

	Running Bales Ginned			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
All Cotton				
AL	517,150	493,450	444,100	282,200
AZ	281,800	219,500	171,150	181,050
AR	1,408,650	1,792,600	1,824,750	1,627,500
CA	1,071,600	710,850	522,350	584,200
FL	58,650	44,950	71,950	61,000
GA	1,084,000	976,150	1,066,900	643,750
LA	773,100	1,070,400	1,096,900	671,400
MS	1,846,750	1,915,450	1,940,800	1,221,500
MO	539,600	706,800	555,550	726,700
NM	19,400	23,950	16,800	16,800
NC	833,950	689,900	690,650	598,750
OK	103,200	99,350	72,150	120,800
SC	235,400	169,200	174,250	98,200
TN	622,750	773,600	789,650	577,550
TX	2,539,350	2,802,200	2,322,400	2,642,050
VA	83,350	80,150	72,100	68,750
US	12,018,700	12,568,500	11,832,450	10,122,200

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, October 2006 and 2007

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.5	2.7	1,363	2,271	907	858
Calves	0.1	0.1	60	38	502	422
Hogs	66.7	66.8	31,552	31,305	474	469
Sheep & lambs	1.3	1.3	92	102	73	76
United States						
Cattle	2,858.1	3,099.6	3,676,944	4,015,128	1,291	1,300
Calves	63.6	65.2	21,900	18,559	347	288
Hogs	9,632.0	10,654.4	2,589,179	2,870,108	269	270
Sheep & lambs	237.3	248.0	31,139	32,710	131	132

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Dairy Products Prices Highlights

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$2.04 per pound for the week ending November 24. The price per pound increased 5.8 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$2.00 per pound, up 3.5 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.33 per pound for the week ending November 24. The U.S. price per pound increased 1.0 cent from the previous week. Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.89 per pound for the week ending November 24. The U.S. price per pound decreased 1.8 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 44.6 cents per pound for the week ending November 24. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.8 cents from the previous week.

U.S. Prices Received: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in November, at 143 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, eggs, corn, and broilers and lower prices were received for lettuce, hogs, cattle, and broccoli. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, cotton, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 24 points (20 percent) from November 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 147, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from last month and increased 27 points (23 percent) from November 2006.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., November 2007 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		November 2006	October ¹ 2007	November ² 2007	November 2006	October ¹ 2007	November ² 2007

Dollars Per Unit

Field Crops

Corn	bu.	3.29	3.60	3.90	2.88	3.29	3.49
Cotton Lint	lb.	.481	.546	.540 ³	.474	.552	.540 ³
Sorghum	cwt.	6.78	6.95	n/a	5.83	6.18	6.22
Soybeans	bu.	6.48	8.77	9.90	6.08	8.36	9.48
Winter Wheat	bu.	4.64	8.32	n/a	4.67	7.54	7.50

Livestock

All beef cattle	cwt.	68.00	74.20	71.80	84.40	90.60	89.30
Steers/heifers	cwt.	86.00	95.00	91.00	90.00	96.40	95.40
Cows	cwt.	41.00	43.00	43.00	43.60	46.60	43.60
Calves	cwt.	98.00	103.00	100.00	119.00	122.00	118.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month. ³ Based on purchases first half of month. n/a = not available.

Prices Received: Corn & Sorghum, Tennessee, by Month, for Marketing Years, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007¹

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan ²	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	MYA
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Dollars Per Bushel

Corn

2005-2006	2.18	1.83	1.84	2.06	2.22	2.22	2.28	2.33	2.41	2.46	2.62	2.51	2.07
2006-2007	2.42	2.41	2.61	3.29	3.40	3.21	3.75	3.80	3.25	3.94	4.15	4.64	2.93

Sorghum

2005-2006	³	1.87	³	³	2.06	2.27	³	2.40	2.56	³	³	³	1.95
2006-2007	³	2.78	3.20	3.80	3.66	3.84	⁴	³	⁴	³	⁴	⁴	2.91

¹ Marketing year is August-July. ² Second year. ³ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁴ Insufficient sales to support a price.

Corn: Farm Marketings, Percent of Sales, by Month and State, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007¹

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan ²	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
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Percent

Corn

2005-2006	3	32	16	5	8	11	9	3	4	5	2	2
2006-2007	8	31	16	4	4	19	6	4	3	2	2	1

¹ Monthly farm marketings, based on a sample survey, as a percent of total used for calculating marketing year average prices. ² Second year.

Get Local, Get “Real” Green at Area Christmas Tree Farms

Nashville, Tenn. – “Christmas tree farms grow a completely renewable and recyclable resource which contains no petroleum products and leaves a very small carbon footprint,” says Tennessee Department of Agriculture horticulture marketing specialist Rob Beets. “Buy a natural tree this year from a nearby farm, and you’ll give a great holiday gift to the environment and to local farmers.”

“Lots of people don’t think about where plastics – and therefore artificial trees – come from,” says Beets. “Plastic is made with petroleum products. Lead, an ingredient in PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic, and other metals, are also important parts of an artificial tree. Fake trees don’t biodegrade, and chances are they’ve traveled a long way, leaving a huge carbon footprint to get to the store or your home. About 85 percent of them start in China, but they’ll end up sitting in our landfills for centuries.”

“In contrast, natural Christmas trees are completely recyclable, and are close to home, waiting to be transported only from the farm to your living room, leaving a carbon footprint of just about nothing,” says Beets. “While they’re growing, natural Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide and other gases and emit fresh oxygen. Christmas Trees are often grown on soil that doesn’t support other crops, and their root systems serve to stabilize soil, protect area water quality and provide refuge for wildlife.” Grown on farms, one to three new seedlings are planted for every tree harvested to ensure a constant supply.

“If you choose a cut tree, after the holidays you can take it to a local site to be turned into mulch for area trails. Some people also like to place their old trees in their ponds or favorite fishing spots to serve as fish habitats. No matter what you do with it, it’s 100 percent biodegradable.”

“There’s also the option to buy a balled and burlapped live tree to replant once the holidays are over. The grower at the farm will be happy to give you tips on how to plant and care for your transplanted tree. Buying a live tree from a farm close to you is a guarantee that the variety you choose will grow well in your area, an assurance you can’t always get other places.”

“When you visit a Tennessee Christmas tree farm, you don’t just do the planet a favor – you give yourself a treat, too,” says the specialist. “Local tree growers depend on loyal customers, so they make sure you can’t wait to come back year after year for a great holiday experience. Most tree farms carry freshly made wreaths and garlands, and many have gift shops on site with all sorts of holiday décor inside. Lots of farmers offer complimentary hot chocolate or cider, some have hayrides. Some growers even conduct on-farm holiday craft classes or host special events which might even include a visit from Santa.”

“Tennessee has Christmas tree farms from one end of the state to the other,” says Beets. “Find the ones closest to you by visiting the Web site www.picktnproducts.org and clicking on the Christmas tree for a statewide directory. Always call ahead and confirm hours of operation and activities.”

For more information about local Tennessee farm products, visit www.picktnproducts.org. This and other news releases from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture can be found at <http://tennessee.gov/agriculture/news/index.html>. Market Development/Pick Tennessee Products news releases can also be found at <http://picktnproducts.org/press/index.html>